



Ferris ISD
Student/Parent
Athletic
Handbook

Do What is Right

Do Your Best

Treat Others The Way You Want to be Treated

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Introduction

The Ferris Independent School District believes that the district athletic program should be an integral part of the total educational process.

The purpose of the Ferris ISD Athletic program is to ensure and enhance the quality of life for youth by providing competitive activities. The pitting of one's skills, knowledge, and talent against friendly opponents is a means of learning one's own strengths and weaknesses.

Good contests properly supervised, give youthful competitors the opportunity to gain self-confidence, improve skills, exhibit good sportsmanship, ethical behavior and integrity. Sports programs help the participant to develop physically, morally and mentally.

Athletic offerings within the district are competitive and diversified, thereby allowing students the opportunity to realize their full potential relative to growth and development. All programs are designed not only to teach athletic skills, but also to instill good character and teach sound values.

I believe that the success of the athletic program sets the tone for the entire school year. It builds a positive self-image for the individual athlete, the team, the school, the community, and most importantly, for Ferris I.S.D

It is our final goal that sports activities will produce young men and women who will be able to enter the community and become constructive contributing members of society: citizens that will leave their mark on this world by making it a better place for future generations.

Brandon Layne
Athletic Director

“Our mission is to give students of Ferris ISD the opportunity to reach their full individual athletic potential while molding team unity, and giving the student a strong understanding of the importance of academics, integrity, leadership, attitude, and school pride.”

EXPLANATION OF ATHLETICS

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of the child's program.

Communication you should expect from your child's coach:

- Philosophy of the coach
- Locations and times of practices and contests
- Team rules and requirements, e.g., practices, special equipment, off season conditioning

Communication coaches expect from parents:

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance

As your children become involved in the programs at Ferris, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged. Examples of these situations include the treatment of your child, ways to help your child improve, concerns about your child's attitude, or academic support.

It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much, when, or where you may desire. It will be the coach's discretion to make all decisions about playing time or position for individual student-athletes, regardless of the score of the game or the personal feelings of the student-athlete's parents.

Coaches are professionals. They make judgments based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things should be left to the discretion of the coach. **Examples include team strategy, other student-athletes, playing time, etc.**

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. **There will not be a conference regarding playing time without the student-athlete and coach present.**

When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote resolution:

1. Call the coach to set up an appointment.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Office. A meeting will be set up for you. 972-544-3737 ext.2186, Yolie Pacheco
3. **Please do not attempt to engage a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.**

If the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution, the next step is to set up an appointment with the appropriate Athletic Coordinator or Athletic Director.

Since research indicates that a student involved in extracurricular activities has greater success during adulthood. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school.

YELLOWJACKET ATHLETICS

According to University Interscholastic League rules, being in athletics is a privilege not a right. Only those students who abide by school and athletic policies will be allowed to represent Ferris I.S.D

When young men and women sign up for athletics and become a member of a team, they make a commitment. They are obligated to follow the rules and regulations of the program. They are not forced to participate. It is voluntary; therefore, they are expected to follow rules of order.

Parents should strive to help their son or daughter to achieve success in athletics. Success is defined as participating at 100% of the individual's ability. We can never expect athletes to do more than they are capable; however, we do want them to obtain their fullest potential. Supportive parents can instill this desire in student athletes long after their playing days are over by seeing that the student is on time, attends practices and games, and follows the rules and regulations.

REQUIREMENTS TO PARTICIPATE

The following items must be turned in to the Athletic Department before participating in any practice or game of any extracurricular athletic activity.

A. Physical Examination

A current physical examination is required every year for all students. The physical form is available from the athletic department. Use only the approved UIL form to record physical examinations. Club or organization forms will not be accepted. The physical covers all sports for a two-year period. The athletic trainers will schedule a group physical during May of the preceding school year for all junior high and high school athletes.

B. Athletic Department Forms Packet

The packet should be filled out completely! Do not leave any requested information blank! Students should be aware of the dangers and laws related to:

Supplement abuse and dietary supplements

Sudden Cardiac Arrest

Concussions

Heat Related Injury

C. Acknowledgement of Ferris ISD Student/Parent Athletic Handbook

The student-athlete and the parent/guardian will sign the Handbook Acknowledgement card. It should then be returned to the Athletic Department. This shows receipt of the Athletic Handbook and acknowledges that the student-athlete and parent/guardian will comply with the rules and policies contained in the Athletic Handbook. These signatures will also acknowledge and agree to Ferris ISD media releases, transcript releases, drug testing authorization and parent/student athletic handbook.

D. Academic Eligibility

A student in grades 9 –12 may participate in extracurricular activities on or off campus at the beginning of the school year only if the student has earned the cumulative number of credits in state-approved courses:

- a. Beginning the ninth grade year – must have been promoted from the eighth to the ninth.
- b. Beginning the tenth grade year – must have at least 5 credits towards graduation.

- c. Beginning the eleventh grade year – must have at least 10 credits toward graduation or during the preceding 12 months, he/she must have earned 5 credits.
- d. Beginning the twelfth grade year – must have 15 credits toward graduation or during the preceding 12 months, he/she must have earned 5 credits.

A student participating in UIL activities will be suspended from participation in games after a grading period in which the student received a grade lower than a 70 on a scale of 100 in any academic class (other than an identified honors or advanced class). This suspension continues for three weeks. The grades will be reviewed at the end of each three-week period; the suspension will be removed if the student is passing all classes with a grade equal to or greater than 70.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM

The administration of the Athletic Program should provide **every** boy and girl the opportunity to participate in any sport. Each head coach is responsible for making sure that all students are knowledgeable of tryout procedures and individual requirements for being in all sports. No student in any grade should be deprived of the opportunity to try out or participate in any sport if he/she has met the head coach's off-season and previous participation requirements.

The general administration of the Athletic Program is the direct responsibility of the Athletic Director. This includes the approval of all schedules, time and place of playing games, selection of officials and the general management of all matters pertaining to the Athletic Program.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICIES

1. Respect for others

Coaches should receive “Yes Sir / Ma’am” and “No Sir / Ma’am” responses from players when talking to them. Players in return will be treated with respect by their coaches. Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, officials, spectators and support groups. Treat others as you would want to be treated.

2. Coaches' Rules

Coaches may establish additional rules and regulations with the approval of the Athletic Director for their respective sports. The rules pertaining to a particular sport must be explained in writing by the coach at the start of the season. The coach shall administer penalties for violation of team rules. Copies of all team rules are on file in the Athletic Office.

3. Discipline Techniques

- Discipline yourself, so that others won't have to!!!
- Each situation may require a different type of discipline. Whatever type of discipline is required, the purpose is to help athletes improve themselves, and to become better people. Failure to accept this on the part of the athlete or parent/guardian may result in dismissal from the team and/or athletic program. The different discipline techniques listed below may be used alone or in combination for Student Code of Conduct and non-Student Code of Conduct violations. The listing is not intended to be a list of progressive sanctions.
 - Verbal Correction
 - Counseling by coaches
 - Home-visits by head coach
 - Parent-Coach conference with Athletic Director
 - Corporal Punishment
 - Behavioral contracts
 - Withdrawal of privileges such as participation
 - Dismissal from team or program

4. Academics

All Students are required to remain academically eligible to participate. Remember "No Pass – No Play." Repeated academic ineligibility may result in dismissal from the team and/or athletic program. If a student fails 2 academic quarters in a row, he/she will be removed from the Athletic program until he/she maintains a passing status for one consecutive semester in all classes. If a student fails the 2nd and 3rd quarters, they will remain in Athletics for the remainder of the year. They will then be removed if:

- a. The student fails the 4th quarter or they fail a class for the year average.

5. Attendance

Be in class. Be on time. If you must miss an athletic period or practice, be sure that it can't be avoided. If you must be absent, call and talk to one of your coaches before athletic period or practice. You will be required to make up missed work. Repeated absences may result in dismissal from the team and/or athletic program.

6. Promptness

Always be on time. On trips, the bus will not wait. After the final bell rings, you do not have time to waste; go directly to your sport. Tardiness will result in disciplinary action.

7. Injury or Illness

If you must leave school because of illness, contact or come by the Athletic Office, coaches' office, or training room. If you are ill or injured, we don't expect you to work out, but if you are at school, we expect you to wear the uniform of the day and accompany your group or team unless given special permission by your head coach or one of the trainers.

8. Conflict in Activities

An individual student who attempts to participate in several extracurricular activities will, undoubtedly, be in a position of a conflict of obligations. The Athletic Department recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of extracurricular activities, and to this end, will attempt to schedule events in a manner to minimize conflicts. Students have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid continuous conflicts. This would include being cautious about participation in too many activities where conflicts are inevitable. It also means immediately notifying the faculty sponsor and coaches involved when a conflict does arise.

When a conflict arises, the sponsors and coaches will work out a solution so the student does not feel caught in the middle. If a solution cannot be found, the Athletic Director, Principal, Parent and Student will make the decision considering the following:

1. The importance of each event to the school (district vs non-district)
2. The importance of each event to the student
3. The relative contribution the student can make
4. How long each event has been scheduled

Once a decision has been made and the student has followed the decision, he/she will not be penalized in any way by either faculty sponsor or coach. If it becomes obvious that a student cannot fulfill the obligation of a school activity, he/she should withdraw from that activity in a

timely fashion so as not to place an unreasonable burden on the team, coach or sponsor.

9. Clubs

A club is a program outside of school that is not affiliated with U.I.L. We are very fortunate to live in a community where the high school can be the main focus. We feel our athletes' obligations are to their school team first. We will not excuse our athletes to miss a school contest or practice for a club event. If an athlete pursues club participation he/she must:

- A. Contact all head coaches of sports at the school in which he/she is participating in.
- B. Be willing to accept any consequences due to missed school related practice or competitions.

10. Vacations

A vacation by an athletic team member during a sport season is discouraged and while family values will always take precedence over program requirements, parents and athletes in conflict between vacations and program requirements may wish to reassess their commitment to being involved in athletics. We urge parents not to plan their vacations during times when there will be possible conflicts.

11. Dress and Appearance

Athletic participation is voluntary by the student, and by entering the program the athlete agrees to abide by the spirit, rules, and regulations, set forth by Ferris ISD and the UIL. You should be professional in uniform and out. Your appearance away from the field house or gym, especially at school, should reflect the same class and pride that you show in our program. According to UIL, everyone will wear his/her uniform in the same manner. Men and women will wear attire requested by the head coach. Grooming and dress will be explained in detail to the athletes and will be enforced by the coaches. No jewelry of any kind will be worn during practice or games. Athletes are public relations ambassadors for their school and as such serve as role models for other students.

12. Travel

All athletes represent the community, school and coaches. Therefore, it is expected that all will dress in an acceptable manner on trips and conduct

themselves in a proper manner. **When missing classes because of an athletic event, it is the responsibility of the athlete to see his/her teacher the day before the missed classes.** All work shall be made up consistent with FISS grading policy. All athletes making a school sponsored trip shall be required to ride in transportation provided by the school to and from the event. Students may return home with the parent or guardian when the parent or guardian presents a written request to the coach. On school athletic trips, students will only be released in person to their parent or guardian. If an athlete is injured in a contest away from home, the above policy may be altered to meet the circumstances.

13.Squad Selection

In accordance with our philosophy of athletics and our desire to see as many students as possible participate in the athletic program. We encourage coaches to keep as many students as they can without sacrificing the integrity of their sport. Time, space, facilities, equipment, personal preference and other factors will place limitations on the most effective squad size for any particular sport.

14.Cutting

Choosing the members of athletic squads is the sole responsibility of the coaches of those squads. Prior to tryouts, the coach shall provide the following information to all candidates and parents for the team:

- A. Extent of tryout period
- B. Criteria used to select the team
- C. Number to be selected
- D. Practice commitment if they make the team
- E. Game commitments

15. Quitting

A. Anyone quitting a sport after a trial period (usually after the first contest) will not be allowed to participate in another sport until the season of the sport quit is completed or unless the head coaches of both sports agree that the student would be better off in the other sport. The Athletic Director may, at his discretion, make an exception to this rule when an event outside the control of the athlete or his/her family causes the athlete to drop a sport. A clear understanding is to be reached by the Athletic Director and the athlete at the time the sport is dropped. Anyone walking off the field or gym

floor during a practice or game without permission will be considered by the coach to have quit that team.

B. If you quit a sport and would like to re-enter the sport for a following season, it must be approved by the Head Coach and you must complete a re-entry contract to be eligible to get back in that program.

16. Tobacco – Alcoholic Beverages – Use of Illegal Drugs

We will follow our Student Code of Conduct and any policies that Ferris ISD mandates with the following modification to the drug policy:

1st offense= 2 week suspension from athletic competition

2nd offense=Expulsion from the Athletic Program for 1 calendar year

3rd offense= Permanent removal from the Athletic Program

17. Criminal Activity

Any activity that brings disgrace or dishonor to the Ferris Athletic Program will not be tolerated. Such activity may result in dismissal from the program. The consequences are also part of Ferris ISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct.

18. Theft

Stealing will not be tolerated. A player caught may be dismissed from the team. We ask that you do not bring valuables or large sums of money to the dressing room. **Lock your lockers at all times!!!** If needed, coaches are available to hold these items. The consequences are also part of Ferris ISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct.

Trust among teammates is of utmost importance within a TEAM.

19. Electronic Devices

NO cell phones or personal electronic recording devices will be permitted in the locker rooms. They will be turned in at the beginning of Athletic Periods and Practices. Coaches will monitor the times students may have and use their devices on trips, at games etc. If a device is not turned in, it will be held until the guardian can come to coach and get the device.

20. Social Media

A. Be careful with how much and what kind of identifying information you post on social networking sites. It is unwise to make available information such as full date of birth, social security number, address, phone number, cell phone numbers, class schedules, bank account information, or details about your daily routine. All of these can facilitate identity theft or stalking. Remember - once posted the information becomes the property of the website.

B. Be aware that potential current and future employers and college admissions offices often access information you place on online social networking sites. Realize that any information you post will provide an image of you to prospective employers and/or schools. The posting is considered public information. Protect yourself by maintaining a self-image that you can be proud of years from now.

C. Be careful in responding to unsolicited emails asking for passwords or PIN numbers. Reputable businesses do not ask for this information online.

D. Do not have a false sense of security about your rights to freedom of speech. Understand that freedom of speech is not unlimited. Social networking sites are NOT a place where you can say and do whatever you want without repercussions.

E. Remember that photos once put on the social network site's server become the property of the site. You may delete the photo from your profile, but it still stays in their server. Internet search engines like Google or Yahoo may still find that image long after you have deleted it from your profile. Think long and hard about what type of photo you want to represent you.

One of the biggest lessons social networking users can learn is that anything you post online enters the public record. High school students should carefully consider their profiles and ask themselves how they would look to a future college admissions officer or potential employer.

All athletes are subject to discipline through the Extracurricular Code of Conduct and may be dismissed from team and/or program for any inappropriate information or pictures/graphics posted on the internet or social media sites.

21. HAZING

Hazing is against the law and will not be tolerated in the Athletic Department. "Hazing" means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act

occurring on or off school property directed against a student, by one person alone, or acting with others, that endangers the mental or physical health or the safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are to include other students. Under Education Code 37.152 a person commits an offense if the person commits any of the following:

- b) Engages in hazing
- c) Solicits, encourages, directs, aids, attempts to aid another in engaging in hazing
- d) Recklessly permits hazing to occur
- e) Has firsthand knowledge of the planning of a specific hazing incident involving a student, or first-hand knowledge that a specific hazing incident has occurred, and knowingly fails to report that knowledge in writing to the Principal, Athletic Director, or designee.

22. Disciplinary Removal

If it becomes necessary to consider removing a student from a team or the athletic program, the coach of that team will notify the Athletic Director. The student will have an opportunity to confer with the coach and the Athletic Director. Parents will receive notification and be invited to attend the conference.

23. Be Coachable

Un-coachable kids of today will become unemployable people of tomorrow.

AWARD POLICIES

U.I.L rules prohibit athletes from accepting anything of value other than as listed in these policies. All athletes must strictly adhere to all training, attendance, conduct, discipline and appearance rules set forth by the coaches for the entire school year before being considered for an athletic award. All scholastic eligibility rules established by the School Board, the University Interscholastic League and Texas Education Agency must be met. It must be clearly understood that the coach recommends an athlete for an award. Award criteria will be set in each sport. Lettering will be determined by the Head Coach and approved prior to the season by the Athletic Director. All lettering requirements will be clearly communicated prior to the start of a season by the Head Coach of that sport. The Ferris Athletic Department will

fit for jackets and order twice per school year. This procedure will be done in November and March.

Schools may give one major award jacket, not to exceed \$60.00 in value, to a student during high school enrollment at the same school for participation in one of the U.I.L. interschool competitions. One additional symbolic award, not to exceed \$10.00 in value, may be presented for participation in each additional U.I.L. activity. The \$10.00 award shall not be given to a student for an activity during the same year that the major award is given for that activity.

Extracurricular Standards of Behavior

With the approval of the principal and superintendent, sponsors and coaches of extracurricular activities, including interscholastic athletics, academics, marching band and clubs may develop and enforce standards of student behavior, that are higher than the district-developed Student Code Of Conduct and may condition membership or participation in the activity on adherence to those standards. Extracurricular behavioral standards may take into consideration conduct that occurs at any time, on or off school property.

Organizational standards of behavior of an extracurricular activity are independent of the Student Code of Conduct. Violations of these standards of behavior that are also violations of the Student Code of Conduct may result in independent disciplinary actions.

Ferris ISD students that attend extracurricular activities are expected to be picked up in a timely manner. If a student is picked up more than 20 minutes after the event is over, that student will be denied attendance to the next two events unless accompanied by a parent.

The Ferris I.S.D Athletic Handbook contains a general statement of the administrative regulations governing the overall athletic program. Provisions of this Athletic Handbook may be expanded, modified, or revoked only by action of the Principal, Superintendent, or the Board of Education. If any of the provisions of this Athletic Handbook conflict with federal or state laws, and regulations, or Board policy, those provisions are superseded by applicable law or Board policy.

The provisions of this Athletic Handbook are severable, and the invalidity, illegality or unenforceability of any provision will not affect the validity, legality, or enforceability of the other provisions.

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by Ferris ISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct for the 2017-2018 school year. I understand that I will be held accountable for the behavior expectations and consequences outlined in the Extracurricular Code of Conduct. I understand that by participating in extracurricular activities, I am a representative of Ferris ISD and a role model to my peers and throughout the community; therefore, the Extracurricular Code of Conduct governs my behavior at all times, and applies both on and off school property. I understand that the behavior expectations of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct are in addition to those included in the Ferris ISD Student Code of Conduct. I understand that violations of the behavior standards of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct that are also violations of the Student Code of Conduct may result in my being disciplined under both the Extracurricular Code of Conduct and the Student Code of Conduct. My signature also acknowledges and agrees to Ferris ISD media releases, transcript releases, drug testing authorization and parent/student athletic handbook.

Student Name:

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Parent/Guardian Name:

—

Campus:

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Parent/Guardian Signature:

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Grade Level:

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Date:

Student Signature:

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Date:
